



**Van Asselt Community Center
Additional PAT Meeting
May 18, 2005
Meeting Notes**

PAT Members Present: Joy Bryngelson; Ed Rose.

Guests present: Denise Dana, project architect; Aaron Power, project artist; Charlotte Shoecraft, Friends of Van Asselt Play Area.

Staff Present: Dan Johnson, Parks Project Manager; Karen Lynch, Parks Public Relations Specialist; Katie Gray, Parks Southeast Sector Manager; Clint Hooper, Center Coordinator.

6:30 p.m. Welcome and Sign-In.

6:35 p.m. Dan Johnson provided a brief review of the reason the building design has changed, and the site plan has been revised. Parks staff concluded last December that the plan could be revised to work better for the community at large. Early in 2005, three iterations were developed with the input of Katie Gray and other Parks operations staff. We are back now at the schematic design phase, and the best of the three design revisions will be reviewed at tonight's meeting.

6:35 p.m. Grant fund update

Play area: At prior PAT meetings, the group has discussed efforts by the Friends of Van Asselt Play Area, as well as other efforts by Parks staff to obtain funding from the Sonics organization for improving the two outdoor basketball courts.

Charlotte Shoecraft has been working with PAT member Monika Mathews (Friends of Van Asselt Play Area) to obtain grant funding for improving the onsite play area. The grant application submitted earlier this year for \$285,000 to the **Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund** committee was one of thirty submissions.

This application is one of seven which made the final cut, and on Monday, May 23, a decision will be made by the committee at a meeting both Monika and Charlotte plan to attend (in case questions arise). Charlotte told the PAT it seems likely Van Asselt will be awarded about \$150,000 for the play area project.

Dan reminded Charlotte about the **Lowe's** corporate matching funds, which are available in the amount of \$10,000. He suggested they also look at the next round of **Starbucks** grant funding, as a future request to help add to the total available for the play area.

Katie Gray mentioned a small **Park Upgrade** fund which might be a possible source of a small sum; this fund (if funds are requested and granted) can be used for buying park benches and the like.

Sonics funding: Dan gave an update on potential Sonics funding for the outdoor basketball courts. Dan recently talked with Kevin Parker of the Sonics. In two weeks, the Sonics organization has a meeting to review eight different funding requests made by Parks; ours is one of them. Many of these requests are not yet in a "ready to go" stage and the Sonics would like to fund something in the near future that they can begin work on this year. Denise and Ron Wright will provide the Sonics as soon as possible with a schematic for the basketball courts, which are being relocated to the space which is currently the tennis court.

Katie Gray would also like to find out if Sonics can repaint and "cosmetically" upgrade the gym.

6:55 p.m. Architect Update: Denise reviewed the new site plan and building design in detail. On the site, the basketball courts will be relocated, and the existing tennis courts will be replaced in 2006 in the lower sports field. The community center entrances are being revised to provide easier access to the nearby bus stop, to and from the center and playfields. The main entrance to the Community Center will include a plaza and a "lawn like" open space (where the basketball courts are currently).

Interior: The gym will receive building code required improvements only. The gym may be entirely replaced in the future. The funds saved can be redirected into the rest of the building, providing additional new program space. The PAT was agreeable to this plan revision.

The square footage of the expansion is now approximately 8,200 (vs. about 6,000 in the prior plan).

There will be an elevator installed, as the other option for creating ADA accessibility was to build ramps leading into the gym on the lower level and because of the steep grade conditions, it's actually less expensive and more efficient to install an elevator inside the center.

The revised plan includes two teen or activity rooms (vs. one in the prior design) which allow for flexible programming choices. The new building will be wired for high speed internet, some audio visual needs, and have a PA system installed.

Visibility into these activity rooms is still a focus. The reception desk will be a semi-circle shape.

The multipurpose room is now larger; the PAT also discussed reducing the size of staff offices in order to create even more space for the multipurpose room. Another key area is the childcare room. The current childcare space serves 18 kids -- the new childcare space should be big enough to serve up to 30. Operations staff has made this a top priority.

Maximum occupancy rates for the rooms in the building will be posted as soon as determined.

Some of the utility work can be done prior to accepting contractors' bids, which should result in a cost savings ultimately.

Outdoors: It was clarified the revised plan includes seating walls outside near the wading pool. The plan for a new, slightly-larger play area is to use a safe rubberized surface to minimize maintenance.

Two staff will be onsite all summer (June through August). The Community Center will close in early September for construction. The community will be notified by late June of the schedule, and offered other programming locations to use during construction/closure. During the closure period, one Parks staff will remain at the nearby New Holly facility offering programming there on a limited basis. Other staff will be relocated temporarily. The Community Center will reopen in 2006.

On May 19, the revised design was presented to the City's Design Commission and approved

The next stage of this revised design, design development, will occur by the end of June, 2005.

7:45 p.m. Comments from the PAT and staff were overall very positive. Ed Rose, a PAT member who is also an architect for SHA, applauded the new site plan which he feels is much improved and the new building design works well in his opinion. Katie also said the community will be involved in programming decisions that are made in 2006 when the staff is returning.

7:55 p.m. Next Steps: A closure notice will be developed by late June, and distributed.

8:05 p.m. Adjourned

These notes will be posted on the project web page:
[http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/Centers/current/Van Asselt Community Center](http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/Centers/current/Van_Asselt_Community_Center)